

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----000031 131651Z /46

O 131615Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4244

S E C R E T STOCKHOLM 2705

EXDIS

DEPT PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY BY IMMEDIATE CABLE
AND SLUG QTE ALSO FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST UNQTE

1. DCM WAS CALLED IN BY ACTING HEAD OF POLITICAL
DIRECTION OF MFA, KAI GROTH, ON VIGGEN DECISION.
ALSO PRESENT WAS MFA OFFICIAL ULF HJERTONSSON
(OF DIVISION FOR NORTH AMERICA AND WESTERN EUROPE).
GROTH PASSED DCM COPY OF A NON-PAPER TO BE DELIVERED
LATER TODAY BY SWEDISH CHARGE TO DAS VINE. NON-PAPER
(TEXT REPEATED AT CONCLUSION) REITERATES GOS
REQUEST THAT SECRETARY VANCE RECEIVE MINISTER OF
COMMERCE BURENSTAM LINDER WHO HAS BEEN EMPOWERED
BY SWEDISH GOVERNMENT TO REPRESENT SWEDISH
GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE. GROTH OBSERVED THAT
SWEDISH CABINET MINISTER SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO
"AT LEAST 15 MINUTES" REQUIRED WITH SECRETARY.
GROTH SAID MEETING WAS DESIRED SOMETIME BEFORE END
OF JULY WHICH WOULD MEAN LAST WEEK IF HE IS RECEIVED
IN WASHINGTON. HJERTONSSON STATED AFTER MEETING WITH
GROTH THAT LINDER WAS READY TO TRAVEL ANY TIME ANYWHERE
ON VERY SHORT NOTICE.

2. HJERTONSSON ALSO STATED BEFORE MEETING THAT
DECISION WAS MADE YESTERDAY AFTER MEETING BETWEEN
PRIME MINISTER FALLDIN, FOREIGN MINISTER SODER AND
SECRET

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LINDER WITH PARTICIPATION OF AMBASSADOR
WACHTMEISTER (RECALLED FROM LEAVE) AND SENIOR MFA
OFFICIALS (UNDoubtedly INCLUDING THYBERG AND PERHAPS GROTH).

3. AFTER READING, DCM QUERIED GROTH AS TO MEANING
OF THIRD PARAGRAPH OF NON-PAPER. GROTH SAID LANGUAGE
WAS UNFORTUNATE BUT IT HAD ALREADY BEEN DRAFTED

BY THE MINISTERS WHEN HE BECAME INVOLVED AND HE WAS UNABLE TO CHANGE IT. DCM ASKED IF IT WAS MEANT TO APPLY TO B3LA AIRCRAFT WITH POSSIBLE GE 404 ENGINE COMPONENT ONLY OR HAD BROADER MEANING. BOTH SWEDISH OFFICIALS REPLIED THAT WHILE FUTURE OF THE B3LA AND US ENGINE WERE INCLUDED, POINT WAS MORE GENERAL AND INCLUDED QUESTION OF FUTURE PROCUREMENT IF AIRCARFT INDUSTRY WOULD CEASE TO EXIST AND PROBABLE INABILITY OF GOS TO SELL LATTER ALTERNATIVE TO SWEDISH ELECTORATE.

4. SWEDISH OFFICIALS WERE FRIENDLY AND COURTEOUS. THEY ENDED WITH HOPE THAT EMBASSY WOULD SUPPORT REQUEST FOR CABINET LEVEL MEETING WITH SECRETARY.

5. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT TIME MUST SOMEHOW BE FOUND FOR MEETING WITH LINDER GIVEN STRENGTH OF SWEDISH DESIRE FOR HEARING WITH SECRETARY AND THE INTENSIVE INVOLVEMENT OF HIGHEST LEVELS OF SWEDISH GOVERNMENT INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER. THIS IS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO EXISTING USG POSITION. IMPORTANCE OF HEARING TO US-SWEDISH RELATIONS IS, OF COURSE, PROFOUND. END COMMENT

6. TEXT OF NON-PAPER FOLLOWS:

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"THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN CAREFUL STUDY TO THE MESSAGE OF 6 JULY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CANNOT APPROVE THE SWEDISH REQUEST FOR US AUTHORIZATION TO EXPORT TO AND CO-PRODUCE IN INDIA CERTAIN EQUIPMENT OF US ORIGIN IN THE VIGGEN AIRCRAFT.

"THE CONCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS FAR REACHING CONSEQUENCES AND TOUCHES ON VITAL SWEDISH INTERESTS.

"MOREOVER, THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT IS SOON ABOUT TO MAKE IMPORTANT DECISIONS CONCERNING THE SWEDISH AIR FORCE.

"THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HAS REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO PRESENT ITS CASE ON CABINET LEVEL IN WASHINGTON. UNFORTUNATELY IT HAS NOT SO FAR BEEN POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE SUCH A CONTACT.

"GIVEN THE CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT REITERATES ITS REQUEST OF JULY 6 FOR DR. STAFFAN BURENSTAM LINDER, MINISTER OF TRADE, DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE QUESTIONS AND MANDATED TO

REPRESENT THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT IN THIS MATTER, TO
HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH SECRETARY OF
STATE, MR. CYRUS VANCE."
KENNEDY-MINOTT

SECRET

NNN

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